

SECOND REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
SENATE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 2191
94TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

5133S.04T

2008

AN ACT

To repeal sections 160.545, 173.256, and 173.258, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof three new sections relating to higher education scholarships.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 160.545, 173.256, and 173.258, RSMo, are repealed and three new
2 sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 160.545, 173.256, and 173.258, to read
3 as follows:

160.545. 1. There is hereby established within the department of elementary and
2 secondary education the "A+ Schools Program" to be administered by the commissioner of
3 education. The program shall consist of grant awards made to public secondary schools that
4 demonstrate a commitment to ensure that:

5 (1) All students be graduated from school;

6 (2) All students complete a selection of high school studies that is challenging and for
7 which there are identified learning expectations; and

8 (3) All students proceed from high school graduation to a college or postsecondary
9 vocational or technical school or high-wage job with work place skill development opportunities.

10 2. The state board of education shall promulgate rules and regulations for the approval
11 of grants made under the program to schools that:

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

12 (1) Establish measurable districtwide performance standards for the goals of the program
13 outlined in subsection 1 of this section; and

14 (2) Specify the knowledge, skills and competencies, in measurable terms, that students
15 must demonstrate to successfully complete any individual course offered by the school, and any
16 course of studies which will qualify a student for graduation from the school; and

17 (3) Do not offer a general track of courses that, upon completion, can lead to a high
18 school diploma; and

19 (4) Require rigorous coursework with standards of competency in basic academic
20 subjects for students pursuing vocational and technical education as prescribed by rule and
21 regulation of the state board of education; and

22 (5) Have a partnership plan developed in cooperation and with the advice of local
23 business persons, labor leaders, parents, and representatives of college and postsecondary
24 vocational and technical school representatives, with the plan then approved by the local board
25 of education. The plan shall specify a mechanism to receive information on an annual basis from
26 those who developed the plan in addition to senior citizens, community leaders, and teachers to
27 update the plan in order to best meet the goals of the program as provided in subsection 1 of this
28 section. Further, the plan shall detail the procedures used in the school to identify students that
29 may drop out of school and the intervention services to be used to meet the needs of such
30 students. The plan shall outline counseling and mentoring services provided to students who will
31 enter the work force upon graduation from high school, address apprenticeship and intern
32 programs, and shall contain procedures for the recruitment of volunteers from the community
33 of the school to serve in schools receiving program grants.

34 **3. A school district may participate in the program irrespective of its accreditation**
35 **classification by the state board of education, provided it meets all other requirements.**

36 **4.** By rule and regulation, the state board of education may determine a local school
37 district variable fund match requirement in order for a school or schools in the district to receive
38 a grant under the program. However, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the
39 program unless the district designates a salaried employee to serve as the program coordinator,
40 with the district assuming a minimum of one-half the cost of the salary and other benefits
41 provided to the coordinator. Further, no school in any district shall receive a grant under the
42 program unless the district makes available facilities and services for adult literacy training as
43 specified by rule of the state board of education.

44 [4.] **5.** For any school that meets the requirements for the approval of the grants
45 authorized by this section and specified in subsection 2 of this section for three successive school
46 years, by August first following the third such school year, the commissioner of education shall
47 present a plan to the superintendent of the school district in which such school is located for the

48 waiver of rules and regulations to promote flexibility in the operations of the school and to
49 enhance and encourage efficiency in the delivery of instructional services in the school. The
50 provisions of other law to the contrary notwithstanding, the plan presented to the superintendent
51 shall provide a summary waiver, with no conditions, for the pupil testing requirements pursuant
52 to section 160.257 in the school. Further, the provisions of other law to the contrary
53 notwithstanding, the plan shall detail a means for the waiver of requirements otherwise imposed
54 on the school related to the authority of the state board of education to classify school districts
55 pursuant to subdivision (9) of section 161.092, RSMo, and such other rules and regulations as
56 determined by the commissioner of education, except such waivers shall be confined to the
57 school and not other schools in the school district unless such other schools meet the
58 requirements of this subsection. However, any waiver provided to any school as outlined in this
59 subsection shall be void on June thirtieth of any school year in which the school fails to meet the
60 requirements for the approval of the grants authorized by this section as specified in subsection
61 2 of this section.

62 [5.] 6. For any school year, grants authorized by subsections 1 to 3 of this section shall
63 be funded with the amount appropriated for this program, less those funds necessary to reimburse
64 eligible students pursuant to subsection 6 of this section.

65 [6.] 7. The commissioner of education shall, by rule and regulation of the state board of
66 education and with the advice of the coordinating board for higher education, establish a
67 procedure for the reimbursement of the cost of tuition, books and fees to any public community
68 college or **within the limits established in subsection 9 of this section any two-year public**
69 **or private** vocational or technical school for any student:

70 (1) Who has attended a public high school in the state for at least three years immediately
71 prior to graduation that meets the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, except that
72 students who are active duty military dependents who, in the school year immediately preceding
73 graduation, meet all other requirements of this subsection and are attending a school that meets
74 the requirements of subsection 2 of this section shall be exempt from the three-year attendance
75 requirement of this subdivision; and

76 (2) Who has made a good faith effort to first secure all available federal sources of
77 funding that could be applied to the reimbursement described in this subsection; and

78 (3) Who has earned a minimal grade average while in high school as determined by rule
79 of the state board of education, and other requirements for the reimbursement authorized by this
80 subsection as determined by rule and regulation of said board.

81 [7.] 8. The commissioner of education shall develop a procedure for evaluating the
82 effectiveness of the program described in this section. Such evaluation shall be conducted

83 annually with the results of the evaluation provided to the governor, speaker of the house, and
84 president pro tempore of the senate.

85 **9. For a two-year public or private vocational or technical school to obtain**
86 **reimbursements under subsection 7 of this section, except for those schools that are**
87 **receiving reimbursements on August 28, 2008, the following requirements shall be**
88 **satisfied:**

89 **(1) Such two-year public or private vocational or technical school shall be a**
90 **member of the North Central Association and be accredited by the Higher Learning**
91 **Commission as of July 1, 2008, and maintain such accreditation;**

92 **(2) Such two-year public or private vocational or technical school shall be**
93 **designated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986,**
94 **as amended;**

95 **(3) No two-year public or private vocational or technical school shall receive tuition**
96 **reimbursements in excess of the tuition rate charged by a public community college for**
97 **course work offered by the private vocational or technical school within the service area**
98 **of such college; and**

99 **(4) The reimbursements provided to any two-year private vocational or technical**
100 **school shall not violate the provisions of article IX, section 8, or article I, section 7, of the**
101 **Missouri Constitution or the first amendment of the United States Constitution.**

173.256. 1. The department of higher education shall collect and distribute funds for the
2 kids' chance scholarship pursuant to section 173.254, however, the department shall not
3 distribute the corpus provided by section 173.258. **The department may distribute any**
4 **accrued interest in the fund as scholarships after the second Monday in October of 2008.**

5 2. There is hereby created in the state treasury the "Kids' Chance Scholarship Fund",
6 which shall consist of all moneys deposited in the fund pursuant to section 173.258 and all
7 moneys which may be appropriated to it by the general assembly, from federal or other sources,
8 including private donations. Upon termination of the fund, all moneys in the fund shall be
9 transferred for the use of the division of workers' compensation for deposit in the fund created
10 by virtue of section 287.690, RSMo.

11 3. The state treasurer shall administer the fund and credit all interest to the fund and the
12 moneys in the fund shall be used solely upon appropriation by the department for the expenses
13 of carrying out its duties pursuant to this section.

14 4. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 33.080, RSMo, to the contrary, moneys in
15 the fund shall not revert to the credit of the general revenue fund at the end of the biennium.

173.258. The director of the division of workers' compensation shall deposit fifty
2 thousand dollars from the premium tax collected pursuant to section 287.690, RSMo, on the

- 3 second Monday in October of each year beginning in 1999 until [2008] **2018** into the kids'
- 4 chance scholarship fund.

✓

